Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 H-01 DHA-02 SSO-00 SS-15 L-03 PA-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 NSC-05 TRSE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 /050 R

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O 100029Z MAR 77 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SHUM, BR

SUBJECT: PUBLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON BRAZIL

1. THE TENSIONS OF THE PAST TWO DAYS OVER THE DISPOSITION
OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON BRAZIL HAVE BEEN ACCOMPANIED
BY REPORTS, SOME OF WHICH WERE GENERATED BY AMBASSADOR
PINHEIRO THAT PINHEIRO WOULD LIKELY BE WITHDRAWN IF
CONGRESS PUBLISHES THE REPORT. THEREFORE, IN ORDER TO
AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING REGARDING THE REPORT WE INFORMED
PINHEIRO EVENING MARCH 8 1) THAT THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT
ON BRAZIL WAS SENT INFORMALLY TO THE HUMPHREY COMMITTEE
LAST WEEK IN PREPARATION FOR THE CHRISTOPHER TESTIMONY
MONDAY (HE KNEW THIS), 2) TO ATTEMPT TO WITHDRAW THE
REPORT WOULD ATTRACT EVEN MORE ATTENTION TO IT; 3) IF THIS
WERE DONE, ONE OF THE APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
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COULD IN ANY EVENT REQUEST A REPORT ON BRAZIL AT ANY TIME WHICH THE DEPT WOULD BE OBLIGED BY LAW TO PROVIDE; AND 4) IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT THE REPORT WILL BE RELEASED BY CONGRESS AT SOME POINT. WE ALSO EXPLAINED TO PIMHEIRO THAT WHILE THE REPORT WILL IN ANY CASE HAVE TO REMAIN BEFORE CONGRESS IT COULD, BARRING RESTRICTIVE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR FUTURE GOB PURCHASES UNDER

FMS SYSTEM OF MATERIEL REQUIRED BY THE BRAZILIAN MILITARY.

- 2. PINHEIRO DID NOT DEMONSTRATE MUCH IMMEDIATE INTEREST IN THIS LAST POINT BUT WE HAVE HEARD THIS MORNING THAT IT DID MAKE AN IMPRESSION; IN FACT HE HAS REMARKED TO A THIRD PARTY THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW THE ESTADO MAYOR OF THE ARMED FORCES WOULD REACT. REPEATEDLY, HE EMPHASIZED THAT PUBLICATION OF THE REPORT (WHICH HE SAID WOULD BE TAKEN HARDER THAN LEAKS) WOULD BE VIEWED WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS BY HIS GOVERNMENT AND WOULD LIKELY LEAD TO HIS BEING WITHDRAWN.
- 3. WE HAVE NOTED BRASILIA'S 1774 REPORTING THAT BRANDAO AFFIRMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD NO PLANS AT THE MOMENT TO CALL BRAZILIAN AMBASSADOR PINHEIRO BACK FROM WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS.
- 4. FOR EMBASSY'S BACKGROUND AND FURTHER CLARIFICATION SHOULD THERE BE GOB INQUIRIES: LEAVING ASIDE USE OF FY 1978 CREDIT AND IMET, THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT -- AS WELL AS THE PROGRAM PRESENTATION FOR BRAZIL, INCLUDING FIGURES AND NARRATIVE JUSTIFICATION -- MUST BE SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS IF BRAZIL WISHES TO RETAIN ITS ABILITY TO PURCHASE DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES FROM THE U.S. FOR EITHER CASH OR THROUGH USE OF PRIOR YEAR FMS FINANCING WITH CONTRACTS SIGNED IN FY 1978. WHILE CERTAIN ITEMS MAY BE OBTAINED OUTSIDE THE FMS SYSTEM I.E. THROUGH COMMERCIAL PURCHASES, OTHERS WOULD NOT BE AVAILABLE FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES.

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Subject: PUBLICATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON BRAZIL

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